

CHAPTER I.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

The forest-area of the divisions of the Southern Circle during 1889-90 was as follows :—

Collectorate.	Area on the 1st April 1889.				Added during the year.				Excluded or transferred to other Heads.				Area on the 31st March 1890.				Total Forest Area.	
	Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.			
	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.		
Kánara	083	446	2,864	631	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9811	683	446	2,864	5321	3,548	3361
Belgaum	484	419	196	571	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	484	419	196	571	691	361
Dbárwár	171	410	260	259	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171	410	260	259	482	29
Bijápur	155	75	..	364	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155	75	..	364	155	439
Kolába	29	630	..	606	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	630	..	606	382	596
Batnágiri	19	600	..	..	..	152	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	112	..	..	20	112
Total ..	1,819	2213	3,411	512	..	152	..	..	..	..	..	9811	1,819	175	3,411	413	5,230	568

KANARA.

2. The change in Kánara is owing to the disforestation of certain lands in the Sirsi and Mundgod sub-divisions.

3. The forest-settlement of 46 villages of Sírsi, 16 of Kumtá and 21 of Honávar, aggregating 138·45 square miles, was sanctioned by Government, but, as the area settled was not notified in the Gazette before the close of the year, it could not be entered in the statement for the year under report.

4. The following area was notified under section 4 of the Forest Act :—

Acres.	Gunthas.
18,774	83 in Honávar.
1,852	19 in Yellápúr.
23,692	8 in Sírsi.
— 2,190	11 in Siddápúr.

5. The 33-feet cleared lines dividing the “special” from the “ordinary” reserves in Halliál, aggregating 45 miles 6 furlongs, were completed, in addition to 18 miles and 1 furlong dividing the reserved from the protected forests in Ankólá. The cost per mile averaged Rs. 24·4

6. The whole forest-area of Kánara was notified in 1879, under section 34 of the Forest-Act (the greater part of the area having been gazetted only approximately) ; the lands so notified are being re-notified under section 4 with a view to their being dealt with either under Chapter II, or IV, of the Act. The figures shown in paragraph 4 refer to such lands.

7. The forest-area originally gazetted is 3,514·36 square miles. Of these 930·03 square miles have been finally dealt with. The area which remains to be dealt with is 2,584·33 square miles.

8. During the year, the field-work completed in the Yellápúr, Kumtá and Sírsi sub-divisions, aggregated 299 square miles, and the settlement-officer's proposals are reported to be in course of preparation for submission to Government.

9. Up to the present time the final settlement by Mr. Wingate of 138·16 square miles of forest in Kánara, shows that 41·16 per cent. of that area is reserved, and 58·84 per cent. protected.

BELGAUM AND DHARWAR.

10. The protected forests of these divisions aggregating 457 square miles and 190 acres were notified under section 4 of the Forest-Act, and Mr. Gray, who was appointed Forest-Settlement-Officer, commenced work on the 1st November, 1889, and inspected the forests of the Belgaum and Parasgad sub-divisions. He has not sent in any report, but the work accomplished during last working-season, up to March 31, amounts to 32,581 acres.

RATNAGIRI.

11. During the year, final orders were passed by Government on the question of forest-settlement, and it was found undesirable to make any further reservation with the exception of 153 acres of the Rájápúr-sub-division.

12. The expenditure on account of forest-settlement and demarcation during 1889-90, amounts to Rs. 15,770 as shown below :—

	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Not charged against Forests.</i>		
Allowances of the Forest-Settlement-Officer, Kánara ...	1,800	
Salaries and allowances of the Forest-Settlement-Officer, Belgaum-Dhárwár	4,300	
		6,100
<i>Charged to Forests.</i>		
Salaries and travelling allowances of the establishment employed under the Forest-Settlement-Officer, Kánara, and Contingencies	4,250	
Salaries and travelling allowances of the establishment employed under the Forest-Settlement-Officer, Bel- gaum-Dhárwár, and contingencies	622	
Cost of demarcation... ..	4,798	
		9,670
Total ...	15,770	

13. The work actually effected during the year, which is represented by the above expenditure, comprises :—

299 square miles in Kánara at a cost of Rs. 6,050, or Rs. 20·24 per square mile.

51 square miles in Belgaum at a cost of Rs. 4,922, or Rs. 96·50 per square mile.

350 Total, at a cost of Rs. 31·35 per square mile.

14. Steps have been taken to obtain the information regarding the cost per square mile on account of forest-settlement up to date, and this will be reported to Government later on.

15. The high cost per square mile in Belgaum is ascribed to the fact that Mr. Gray was appointed to a newly-created office which took some time to get into working order. The rate of progress this season will no doubt be much more rapid and compare favourably with the progress made in settlements elsewhere.

16. The areas gazetted under section 4 of the Act, afford no information of the extent of the work accomplished. The settlement-officer publishes from time to time extracts from the lists of forests previously gazetted under section 34, without having examined the forests they refer to. He then, and then only, proceeds to select lands for forest. The preparation of lists for publication under sections 4 and 28 could be accomplished in a few months, but no object could be gained by that, unless the settlement-officer, who is also selection-officer, could complete his selections for the whole area during the following working-season. At last year's rate of progress, it will take eight years to complete the settlement in Kánara. It is important, as pointed out in a recent Resolution of Government, that the settlement of forests in the *supári-garden-*

tracts should be speedily completed, and the wholesale cutting of *ráb* be confined within reasonable limits, but this object cannot be attained anywhere until the forests which supply the *ráb* have been finally settled. I see no reason why the Divisional Officer of the Southern Division of Kánara should not be deputed to select areas in his division for notification under sections 4 and 28 of the Act, the Assistant-Collectors acting as forest-settlement-officers, in their own districts, for the reserved areas selected by him. It is the work of selection that occupies nearly the whole time of settlement-officers: the judicial work is, comparatively speaking, a mere nothing, and, if the Divisional Officer's proposals for reserved and protected were accepted without revision by the forest-settlement-officer, except when acting in his judicial capacity, the progress of settlement would be much more rapid than it now is. All experience goes to show that excepting rights of way and water, no absolute rights exist in the Southern Circle, and that even those claimed are claimed for the whole village-community, and not singly by individuals: for this reason the claims of an entire village-community can be settled with very little expenditure of time on the part of the settlement-officer.

17. The following table shows the progress made in the settlement of the forests which have been gazetted under section 34 of the Forest-Act:—

Name of Collectorate.	Class of Forests.	At the com- mencement of the year. Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled, or recorded.		AREAS DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR, AND SANCTIONED BY GOVERNMENT.				Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.		Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government- orders.		At the end of the year. Areas under Section 34, in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled, or recorded.	
				Under Section 19, Chapter II of the Forest Act.		Under Section 28, Chapter IV of the Forest Act.							
Kánara	Reserved	214	286	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214	286
	Protected	2,508	321	66	553	81	360	...	...	...	98	2,369	570
Bijápur	Reserved	155	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155	76
	Protected	89	409	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	409
Kolába	Reserved	140	259	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	259
	Protected	37	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	81
Total	Reserved	509	621	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	509	621
	Protected	2,635	171	66	553	81	360	...	...	...	98	2,496	420

18. The area remaining to be dealt with in Kánara amounts to:—

	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.
	(214	286	+ 2,369	570)	= 2,584	216
					Sq. m.	Acres.
The area in Belgaum notified under section 4 of the Forest-Act is	...	...	...	...	196	571
The area in Dhárwár notified under section 4 of the Forest-Act is	...	...	...	...	260	259
Total (<i>vide</i> paragraph 10)	...	...	...	...	457	190
<i>Add—</i>						
Area in Khánápur Táluka of Belgaum, notified under section 4	...	...	...	...	61	199
Area in Hubli Táluka of Dhárwár, notified under section 4	...	...	...	...	6	27
					524	— 416

19. The forests of Kolába have been finally settled, but the settlement proposals on three of the sub-divisions were pending Government-sanction on the 31st March 1890. The settlement of the Bijapur-forests has also been completed and reported on, but the reports were returned to the Collector during the year, as no maps were sent in with them. Besides the area to which those reports refer, the lands, selected for "fuel and fodder reserves" (referred to in paragraph 11 of the Administration Report for 1888-89), which will have to be dealt with, if the proposals regarding them receive Government-sanction, aggregate 22 square miles 488 acres.